GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2244
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
FUND FOR COMMUNICATION FACILITIES
SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budgetary allocation for the current financial year for Orissa for the enhancement of communication facilities is very low in comparison to other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the number of sub-divisions connected with the mobile service and the number of sub-divisions likely to connect during the current financial year in Orissa?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a) & (b): Of the various plan schemes that are being implemented by the Department of Posts, some are implemented centrally, while for some funds are allocated to Circles for implementation. Thus, the budgetary allocation for a state does not give a clear picture of the total magnitude of the implementation of plan activities in a state. Further, the budgetary allocations to Postal Circles are dependent upon the need and requirement. The status of provision of postal facilities in the state of Orissa is reasonable as compared to other states of the country and this can be seen by the fact that average area served by a post office in Orissa is 19.12 sq. km. as compared to all India Average of 21.17 sq. km. and population served by a post office is 4499 in Orissa compared to all India average of 6613 (as on 31.3.02).

An amount of Rs. 190.85 crores has been earmarked by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to Orissa circle during the year 2003-04 for the enhancement of communication facilities based on the targets assigned to the circle which vary from circle to circle. This allocation is not low compared to other states with similar growth.

(c) Mobile services have been provided in 31 sub-divisions and 25 more sub-divisions are likely to be connected with the mobile services during the current financial year, in Orissa.